

1 **Appendix I**

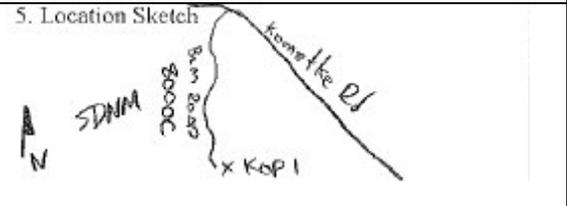
2 **VISUAL CONTRAST RATING SHEETS**

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Date (of field work) | February 2013 |
| District | Phoenix |
| Resource Area | Lower Sonoran |
| Activity (program) | ROW |

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Project Name Sonoran Valley Parkway Project EIS | 4. Location UTM – 12 S 0361798 3669284 | 5. Location Sketch  |
| 2. Key Observation Point SDNM/North Maricopa Mountains Wilderness | | |
| 3. VRM Class VRM I, II | | |

SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

| 1. LAND/WATER | | 2. VEGETATION | 3. STRUCTURES |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| FORM | Rocky outcroppings; flat foreground | Ranges from soft to coarse and spotty (not consistently homogenous throughout) | Fencing spaced, equidistant around perimeter of grazing lands |
| LINE | Horizontal, linear, some flowing curves | Patchy, mottled. Higher density and defined lines along washes. | Horizontal, very infrequent |
| COLOR | Earthy tones ranging in rust, browns, and tans, | Seasonal variations of bright greens to rust, tans and browns | Rust colored |
| TEXTURE | Coarse, irregular | Patchy, clusters of coarse vegetation | Linear; low profile poles |

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

| 1. LAND/WATER | | 2. VEGETATION | 3. STRUCTURES |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| FORM | Linear, at-grade to 15-feet above grade corridor through landscape | Complete removal within portion of ROW that is paved or disturbed. | Linear; paved; road corridor |
| LINE | Linear; with curves; | Bare (no vegetation) band through landscape | Linear, flat, non-reflective asphalt surface |
| COLOR | Paved surface/grey/black; | Exposed soil (on shoulder – or unpaved portion). | Asphalt (black; grey) ribbon through landscape |
| TEXTURE | Smooth, curvilinear band through landscape | Bare, flat | Smooth, linear |

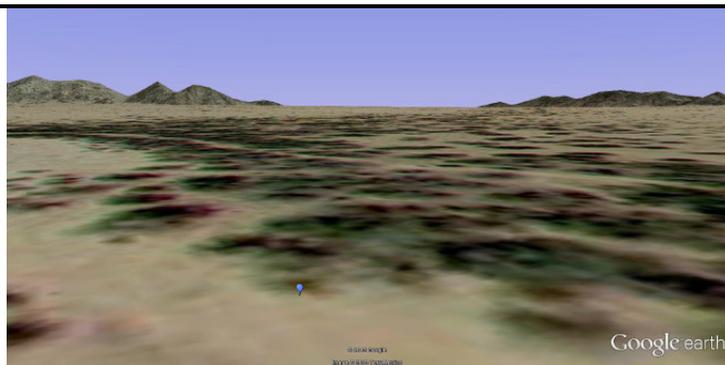
SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING SHORT TERM X LONG TERM

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|--------------------|---------------------|----------|------|------|----------------|----------|------|------|----------------|----------|------|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | DEGREE OF CONTRAST | FEATURES | | | | | | | | | | | | 2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? <u> X </u> Yes <u> </u> No (Explain on reverse side) |
| | | LAND/WATER BODY (1) | | | | VEGETATION (2) | | | | STRUCTURES (3) | | | | |
| ELEMENT | | Strong | Moderate | Weak | None | Strong | Moderate | Weak | None | Strong | Moderate | Weak | None | Evaluators Name(s) Date Ryan Rausch, Pamela Cecere SWCA Environmental Consultants August 2009; February 2013 |
| | Form | | X | | | | | X | | | X | | | |
| | Line | | X | | | | X | | | | X | | | |
| | Color | | | | X | | | X | | | | X | | |
| | Texture | | | X | | X | | | | | X | | | |

SECTION D. (Continued)

Project design meets VRM objectives for the lands upon which it is located (designed by LS RMP as VRM Class IV). Introduction of parkway would be evident from this KOP

Inclusion of BLM Best Management Practices for minimizing impacts to visual resources in keeping with VRM designations should be employed. Design of the roadway should include using BLM color palate for built features such as reflective surfaces of signage, and guardrails. Revegetation plan should also be included in the decision and be in keeping with both BLM and Arizona Parkway standards, and the design of the parkway.



SDNM KOP 1 from a typical observer height oriented to southeast toward the proposed parkway reveals that the road corridor would blend into the landscape at distances of beyond 4 miles (or within the SDNM)



This bird's eye view of KOP 1 from within the SDNM with views to the southeast reveal topographic obstruction blocking a large swath of potential views of the parkway from within the SDNM.

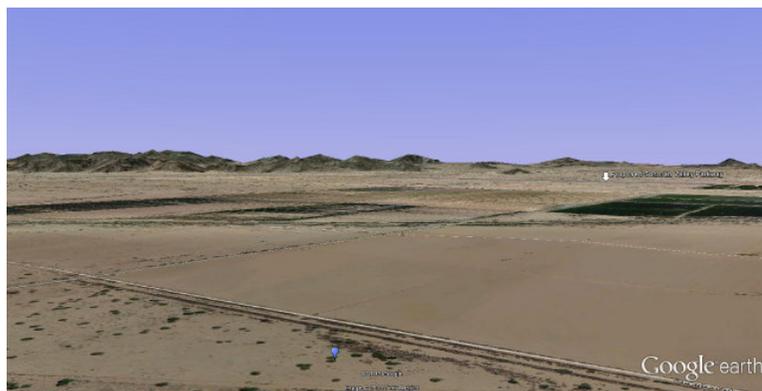


Typical views from within the SDNM reveal flat, vegetated foreground, with rocky outcroppings in the middleground. Vegetation color and density is somewhat dependent upon season and precipitation levels. Some human-made structures such as cattle fencing are evident within the landscape.

SECTION D. (Continued)

Project design meets VRM objectives for the lands upon which it is located (designed by LS RMP as VRM Class IV). Introduction of parkway would be evident from this KOP

Inclusion of BLM Best Management Practices for minimizing impacts to visual resources in keeping with VRM designations should be employed. Design of the roadway should include using BLM color palate for built features such as reflective surfaces of signage, and guardrails. Revegetation plan should also be included in the decision and be in keeping with both BLM and Arizona Parkway standards, and the design of the parkway.



This bird's eye view from KOP 2 (or a typical residence) indicates a long-distance, and partial views of the proposed parkway due to both natural and human-made obstructions. This view ranges from 2.5 (from Alternative C) to 4.5 miles (Alternative A) away.



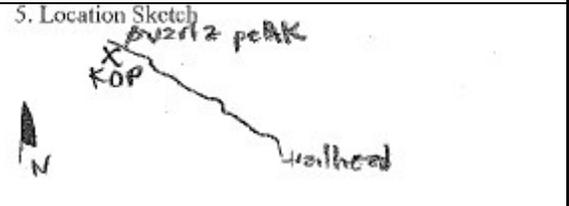
Typical views from KOP 2 include a combination of vacant, disturbed lands, and active agricultural fields with background views of moderate to high relief rocky outcrops. Foreground and middleground views are largely flat, with widely varying color contrasts due to the presence (or absence) of vegetation.

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| Date (of field work) | February 2013 |
| District | Phoenix |
| Resource Area | Lower Sonoran |
| Activity (program) | ROW |

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Project Name Sonoran Valley Parkway Project EIS | 4. Location UTM - 12 S 0385388 3677296 | 5. Location Sketch  |
| 2. Key Observation Point Sierra Estrella Wilderness, Quartz Peak KOP 3 | | |
| 3. VRM Class VRM III, IV/Private | | |

SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

| 1. LAND/WATER | | 2. VEGETATION | | 3. STRUCTURES | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| FORM | Flat, open, panoramic views of desert valley landscape; with distant sporadic views of rocky outcroppings | Flat, patchy, mottled, and appearing somewhat homogenous, or regular at long-distance views | | Some lines associated with active agriculture and existing rural residential development is evident. | |
| LINE | Edges of existing roads, agricultural field and some rocky outcroppings. Also, horizon line is very evident from superior views atop mountains. | Seasonal density variation is evident (due predominantly to rainfall). Lines of denser vegetation is evident along washes. | | Existing roads and linear corridors such as utility lines are most evident as bands within the landscape, other structures are peppered throughout the landscape randomly. | |
| COLOR | Earthtones dominate and range from greens, to tans and browns. | Seasonal color variation due to precipitation and density of vegetation is evident and ranges from deep greens to browns and tans. | | Bands of roads with faded greys and blacks (asphalt paved) and unpaved roads with lines of browns and desert soil color are most evident. | |
| TEXTURE | Somewhat irregular, with harmony in texture occurring at distances beyond 5 miles. | Somewhat patchy and irregular becoming more fine and soft at long distances. | | Irregular and less evident at long distances. | |

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

| 1. LAND/WATER | | 2. VEGETATION | | 3. STRUCTURES | |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| FORM | Band of roadway (within background distance zone) as a linear development within a relatively undeveloped, open landscape. | Removal of vegetation becomes quite evident with superior views of parkway. | | Linear band traversing the landscape, with nearly a complete view of the parkway. | |
| LINE | Relatively straight, linear band within the landscape | Noticeable where vegetation is removed and replaced with paved roadway. | | Linear, continuous band through open landscape, where no similar features exist. | |
| COLOR | Paved surface/grey/black | Exposed soil/pavement, within natural landscape. Removal of vegetation is evident. | | Asphalt (black/grey) ribbon through landscape. | |
| TEXTURE | Smooth, curvilinear, ribbon/band through landscape. | Bare, flat. | | Smooth, linear. | |

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING SHORT TERM X LONG TERM

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------|------|------|-----------------------|----------|------|------|-----------------------|----------|------|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST | FEATURES | | | | | | | | | | | | 2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? <u> </u> X <u> </u> Yes <u> </u> No (Explain on reverse side) |
| | LAND/WATER BODY (1) | | | | VEGETATION (2) | | | | STRUCTURES (3) | | | | |
| | Strong | Moderate | Weak | None | Strong | Moderate | Weak | None | Strong | Moderate | Weak | None | |
| | | | X | | | | X | | | | X | | Evaluators Name(s) _____ Date _____ Ryan Rausch, Pamela Cecere SWCA Environmental Consultants August 2009; February 2013 |
| ELEMENT | Form | | | X | | | | | | | | X | |
| | Line | | X | | | X | | | | | | X | |
| | Color | | | X | | | X | | | | | X | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|--|--|---|--|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| Texture | | | X | | | X | | | | X | |
|---------|--|--|---|--|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|

SECTION D. (Continued)

Project design meets VRM objectives for the lands upon which it is located (designed by LS RMP as VRM Class IV). Introduction of parkway would be evident from this KOP

Inclusion of BLM Best Management Practices for minimizing impacts to visual resources in keeping with VRM designations should be employed. Design of the roadway should include using BLM color palate for built features such as reflective surfaces of signage, and guardrails. Revegetation plan should also be included in the decision and be in keeping with both BLM and Arizona Parkway standards, and the design of the parkway.



This view from atop the Sierra Estrella mountains reveals a superior (or looking down upon) vista. Due to the relatively flat nature of the landscape from this viewpoint, views of the proposed parkway would be nearly complete (e.g., the entire length of the road being visible) with a range of 6 to 10 miles away.



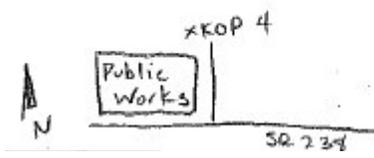
From KOP 3, panoramic vistas of the Rainbow Valley are evident. The proposed parkway would be in the background distance zones but due to lack of topography, and other obstructions, the parkway itself would be evident. In addition, the movement of cars would also make the linear roadway band more obvious to viewers.

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| Resource Area | Lower Sonoran |
| Activity (program) | ROW |

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Project Name Sonoran Valley Parkway Project EIS | 4. Location UTM – 12 S 0381330 3658061 | 5. Location Sketch  |
| 2. Key Observation Point Town of Mobile KOP 4 | | |
| 3. VRM Class VRM IV; Private | | |

SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

| 1. LAND/WATER | | 2. VEGETATION | | 3. STRUCTURES | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| FORM | Diverse landforms, mountainous in background, flat and open within foreground and middleground; no water features | Dense along washes, sporadic or non-existent within foreground, middleground | | Rural development, including roads (paved and unpaved), power lines, landfill, and community facilities. | |
| LINE | Naturally occurring lines are rare to non-existent | Dense along washes, and an evident band of high desert foliage within the middleground. | | Human-made bands from roads, and transmission lines are readily apparent throughout | |
| COLOR | Earthtones ranging from rust to browns, and light tans of exposed desert soil. | Minimal variation in color, as low-lying vegetation is relatively consistent with some color variation occurring seasonally. | | Colors associated with rural residential development, including exposed soil/tans of unpaved roads dominate the foreground. | |
| TEXTURE | Coarse, somewhat irregular, unharmonious due to development | Very dichotomized due to varied levels of development and disturbance to natural vegetation. | | Ranges from large, high mounds (landfill), to rural residential and community development to flat open expanses. | |

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

| 1. LAND/WATER | | 2. VEGETATION | | 3. STRUCTURES | |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| FORM | Linear, slightly elevated band within all distance zones | Complete removal of vegetation within area of ROW that is disturbed. | | Linear, paved, road corridor evident within all distance zones | |
| LINE | Linear, mostly straight | Bare, sporadic | | Linear, flat, paved, within rural residential/existing development. | |
| COLOR | Paved, non-reflective flat, black/grey surface | Exposed soil, sporadic vegetation | | Asphalt (black, grey) ribbon through landscape. | |
| TEXTURE | Smooth, curvilinear band | Bare, flat | | Smooth, linear. | |

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING SHORT TERM X LONG TERM

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|--------------------------|---------------------|----------|------|------|----------------|----------|------|------|----------------|----------|------|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | DEGREE OF CONTRAST | FEATURES | | | | | | | | | | | | 2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? <u> X </u> Yes <u> </u> No (Explain on reverse side) | |
| | | LAND/WATER BODY (1) | | | | VEGETATION (2) | | | | STRUCTURES (3) | | | | | 3. Additional mitigating measures recommended? <u> X </u> Yes <u> </u> No (Explain on reverse side) |
| | | Strong | Moderate | Weak | None | Strong | Moderate | Weak | None | Strong | Moderate | Weak | None | | |
| | | | X | | | | | X | | X | | | | | |
| | | X | | | | | | X | | X | | | | | |
| | | X | | | | X | | X | | | | | | | |
| ELEMENT | Form | | X | | | | | X | | X | | | | Evaluators Name(s) Date Ryan Rausch, Pamela Cecere SWCA Environmental Consultants August 2009; February 2013 | |
| | Line | X | | | | | | X | | X | | | | | |
| | Color | | | X | | | | X | | X | | | | | |
| | Texture | | | X | | | | X | | X | | | | | |

SECTION D. (Continued)

Project design meets VRM objectives for the lands upon which it is located (designed by LS RMP as VRM Class IV). Introduction of parkway would be evident from this KOP

Inclusion of BLM Best Management Practices for minimizing impacts to visual resources in keeping with VRM designations should be employed. Design of the roadway should include using BLM color palate for built features such as reflective surfaces of signage, and guardrails. Revegetation plan should also be included in the decision and be in keeping with both BLM and Arizona Parkway standards, and the design of the parkway.



This bird's eye view from KOP 4 within the Town of Mobile reveals views to the northwest of the entire length of the proposed parkway (Alternative A is shown here, also Sub-Alternatives G and F would be very evident from this viewpoint.

Views from the town of Mobile due west reveal direct, but partially obstructed views of the parkway.



A variety of mountain heights are located within the background distance zones (beyond where the proposed parkway would be located). The proposed parkway would be evident within foreground, middleground, and background distance zones as its termination point is located less than .5 miles from the Town of Mobile.

SECTION D. (Continued)

Project design meets VRM objectives for the lands upon which it is located (designed by LS RMP as VRM Class IV). Introduction of parkway would be evident from this KOP

Inclusion of BLM Best Management Practices for minimizing impacts to visual resources in keeping with VRM designations should be employed. Design of the roadway should include using BLM color palate for built features such as reflective surfaces of signage, and guardrails. Revegetation plan should also be included in the decision and be in keeping with both BLM and Arizona Parkway standards, and the design of the parkway.



From the de Anza Trail, with viewers oriented due west, would experience open expanses of flat desert landscape, with the proposed parkway being between 1.7 (Sub-Alternative F) and 2.3 (Alternative A) and 3.0 (Sub-Alternative G) miles away. Topography is largely flat (only varies about 10 feet in within about a 3 mile radius of the trail, however, vegetative obstruction is evident and would shield direct, unadulterated views of the proposed parkway.



Views from the de Anza trail of the proposed parkway would be largely unobstructed aside from vegetation and the flat nature of the roadway itself as it blends into the landscape at distances beyond the middleground. Viewers on the de Anza trail would likely be seeking a remote, desert experience devoid of human-made development, however, development associated with a rural residential community is currently evident.